

# Emily Harris is one of a growing number of women leading Seattle-area law firms

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As managing partner of Seattle-based law firm Corr Cronin, Emily Harris is just the second person to lead the firm in its 19-year history

Harris was one of the lead attorneys pursuing wrongful death claims after the 2014 Oso landslide. She has been with the law firm since 2004 and became its managing partner in January 2017.

Women represent 50.3 percent of law school graduates, according to a recent Law360 report, yet they still make up less than 35 percent of lawyers.

Harris said that's changing, and she's one of a rising number of women leading Seattle-area firms.



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Emily Harris has been Corr Cronin's managing partner since January 2017.

**Why are there still so few women leading law firms?** It's taken a long time for women to rise up into leadership roles, but there's been a significant shift in the culture now. More and more women are taking leadership roles as law firms realize they've been missing out on great talent.

**What has changed to make that happen?** Law firms are getting better at understanding work-life balance for both men and women.

**What advice do you have for someone just starting out?** Look for openings, look for your own strength and being indispensable. There's a quote from Shirley Chisholm: "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring your own folding chair." That has been my philosophy.

**What's the biggest mistake a lawyer can make?** Putting their integrity at risk.

**What's one lesson you've learned from running the firm this past year?** I've actually become a better lawyer by understanding the business of law and what it takes to run a law firm. I understand where my clients are coming from, what their needs and goals are, and the challenges they face.

**What kinds of challenges?** It's an incredible balance when you're running a business — making sure you're profitable, your clients are receiving the best service they can get and employees are happy and supported.

**What's your leadership advice?** I spent the early days of being a managing partner listening. You just have to listen, collaborate and make it happen.

**What's your favorite thing about working on a case?** There are different things about a case you love — having a really challenging litigation issue or learning a whole new business, like ancient railroad right of ways in the 1850s.

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